Use of Artificial Sweetness/Synthetics in Juice and Jams

3254. SHRIMATI SARADA TADIPARTHI :
SHRI N. RAMAKRISHNA REDDY :

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether artificial sweetness is used by juice and jam makers;

(b) if so, the details of orders in this regard;

(c) whether synthetics used in juice and jams are harmful for body; and

(d) if so, the checks made by the Bureau of Indian Standards to ensure use of non harmful ingredients?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI DILIP KUMAR RAY) : (a) and (b) Although the use of two artificial sweeteners namely, Aspertame and Aceflume K, is permitted in the making of jams and juice under the Fruit Products (Amendment) Order, 1997, their use in jams and juices is still not permitted under Prevention of Food Adulteration Act.

(c) The use of only non-harmful synthetics is allowed under the Indian Food Laws.

(d) Fruit juices, jams are not covered under BIS certification, therefore, no checks are being made by the B.I.S. As these products are licenced under the FPO-1955, necessary checks in this regard are made by the F.P.O. amendments.

Vehicular Pollution

3255. SHRI NARAYAN ATHAWALAY : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to ban the manufacture of two stroke engines for two years in order to stop the growing vehicular pollution and to provide financial incentive on conversion kit to the people to switch over to Compressed Natural Gases (CNGs); and

(b) if so, the details of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) and (b) No specific plan has been prepared to ban the manufacture of two-stroke engines. The Government has reduced the customs duty on CNG kits from 10% to 5% during 1997-98.

Detention of Blackmarketeers in Foodgrains in Gujarat

3256. SHRI VIJAY PATEL : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of blackmarketeers in foodgrains detained in Gujarat under the prevention of Blackmarketing and maintenance of Essential Commodities A, 1955 during each of the last three years;

(b) the number of persons released so far alongwith the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of detenues released due to lacuna in disposing of their representations; and

(d) whether the Government propose to take action against the officers responsible therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUVANS PRASAD SINGH) : (a) The total number of persons detained in Gujarat under the Prevention of Blackmarketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980 during the last 3 years are as under:

Year	No. of Persons*
1994	39
1995	141
1996	55

*(The figures pertain to persons detained for malpractices in various essential commodities including foodgrains. No separate data in respect of foodgrains is maintained by Government of India.)

(b) to (d) The detenues can submit representations to State Governments, Advisory Boards and Central Government. In case of any lacunae in disposing of these representations, the High Court/Supreme Court order release of detenues and also pass strictures against officers responsible and action is taken as per rules. Government of India do not maintain information regarding number of persons released, reasons for release, person released due to lacunae in disposing of their representations and action taken against the officers responsible therefor etc.

Chemical and Fertilizer based Industry

3257. DR. AMRIT LAL BHARTI : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up Chemical and Fertilizer based industries during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) the time by which the survey work in this regard is likely to be completed; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?